John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $25.00
Life Membership $625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Newly Discovered 1825 0118 Capped Bust Half Dollar, third known.
Photo Courtesy of ANACS (www.anacs.com)

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Editors' Comments

Welcome to the final issue of the John Reich Journal for this fiscal year. It has been quite a year for us both as a Nation and as collectors. Gold and silver bullion have outperformed almost any other "traditional" investment to the detriment of the economy in general. Many of us have had to make difficult decisions as to whether to liquidate some of our collections to "make ends meet" or to curtail purchases in deference to the household budget. Some of us have continued to be able to add to our collections without imposing on other aspects of our lives. Coin collectors in general are blessed to be able to participate in a hobby that offers a storehouse of value to insure against hard times. What other hobby allows so much freedom at the point of liquidation? We hate to think of such things, but remain in an advantageous position compared to other of our collecting cousins.

You will notice there are two inserts included in the envelope with your journal. The first brightly colored one is for your dues renewal. Please fill it out and return it to the address listed with your $25 check to receive volume 20 of the journal. The other option you have is to send us a $625 check to become a life member. Either way, you will continue to receive the JRJ for the next year. The other paper is the ballot for voting on the Jules Reiver Literary Award. The articles published in volume 19 of the journal are eligible for voting by the membership for the award. Please take the time to vote for your favorite article(s) and send the ballot to Steve along with your dues renewal. The winner of the award will be recognized at our annual meeting at the ANA convention in LA and will also receive a plaque to commemorate their achievement. Good luck to all the authors from last year! If you would like to be in the running for next year's award put the finishing touches on an article and submit it for publication in volume 20.

The annual EAC/JRCS convention is just around the corner. We will be meeting at the Drawbridge Motor Inn in Northern Kentucky on April 15-19. The hotel is located at the Buttermilk Pike exit 10 minutes north of the airport and 5 minutes south of downtown Cincinnati. Rooms are $78 per night and you can reach them at 800.354.9793. There will be a reception on Thursday evening where you can meet old friends and make new ones. The reception is funded from donations from the membership. Donations can be made by sending a check to EAC Convention 2009, 9743 Leacrest Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215. After the reception the "happenings" will begin. There will be a room set aside for colonial coins, half cents, large cents and silver coins. We will be studying the following die marriages in the silver room. Half Dime 1832 LM10, Dime 1834 JR6, Quarters 1818 B7 and B9 remarriage, Halves 1807 O111b Bearded Goddess and 1827 O127. Bring your coins to compare to others that are there and learn more about your favorite hobby.

There will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at this year's convention. For the first time ever a complete die marriage set of Sheldon variety large cents will be on display courtesy of Dan Holmes (President of EAC) and the American Numismatic Society in New York. I am sure there will be a perpetual line to view these magnificent coins!

There will also be educational seminars offered on Friday and Saturday to attendees. There will be three pertaining to the silver issues. Dr. Glenn Peterson will be speaking on Friday. His topic is the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth with a slide show of the coins minted in 1809. On Saturday Steve Crain will offer a seminar on the cuds found on the Capped Bust Half dimes. This will be immediately followed by Brad Karoleff speaking on the cuds found on the Capped Bust Dimes. I'm sure everyone will find something of interest at the numerous seminars.

The Dime Census that was expected in the last issue finally makes its' appearance in the current journal. I would like to personally thank my friend Charlie Horning for stepping in to help when we needed him. He assembled a team of dime experts to bring the membership the best census possible. I would also like to thank the members of his team for their time and efforts. I am amazed at the depth of their knowledge and willingness to help present the best information possible on their favorite series. Good Job Gentlemen! I'm sure the membership will enjoy the enclosed census and supporting information as much as I have.

Please note the call for the next census. All quarter collectors; send me your census information so that we can publish the quarter census in the next issue. I hope to have a quick turnaround for the next issue as we have many articles in the bank. I would like to have your information no later than June 1st so we can issue the next journal before the ANA convention. Contact information follows the editors' notes. Now, buckle up and enjoy the ride through this issue. I look forward to seeing many of you at the EAC/JRCS convention in April and many others of you at the annual ANA convention in Los Angeles later this year. Until then, enjoy your hobby.

Notice: Bust Quarter Census Information is Solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the John Reich Journal.

Please email your complete inventory listing (including duplicates and die states) /or any questions, to

Brad Karoleff at: jrcs19@roadrunner.com

or hard copies to Brad at PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030.

Letter To The Editor

Reappearing Serif Mystery Solved

Thanks to the ever eagle eyed Mike Camp and Dale Heisler, this mystery is resolved. Overton's 1805 reverse C was used on O.104, O.103 and O.105. The lower serif of F appears missing on all but the latest state of O.105. However, on some high grade examples, a shadow of this serif can be seen. Unfortunately these die marriages are either unknown finer than EF (O.105) or are seldom available for study. This year a high grade specimen of O.103 became available for study and the image shows just a shadow of the serif. Apparently the die was lapped a final time near the end of its useful life which allowed the serif to be struck up.

Bradley Higgins

A Most Interesting 1798 B-19 Dollar

W. David Perkins, NLG

Last summer, a dealer friend called me and asked if I had seen a few neat items that were being offered in the June 5, 2008 Bowers & Merena Baltimore Auction sale. I had not, and quickly went online to view the three lots he referenced.

Lot 41 was titled "An Intriguing Silver Bowl with an 1805 Draped Bust Quarter Set in its Base." The cataloger stated that the coin had VF details, thus it had circulated prior to finding its new (and "permanent!") home. This lot realized $1,219.00.

Lot 42 especially interested me, and I armed the dealer as my agent to bid on this piece. After all, the Dollars of 1798 are a specialty of mine.

Lot # 42
A Sewing Needle Cushion Wheel Constructed Using a 1798 Large Eagle Draped Bust Silver Dollar. VF. One of the most interesting items of its kind that this cataloger has ever handled, this needle cushion wheel has a blank base with a 1798 Large Eagle Dollar serving as the top. The coin itself grades EF Details, and several pins are still stuck into the cushion. Additionally, the handle that once attached this cushion wheel to (probably) a sewing machine stand is still present and fully functional. All metal components are originally and attractively toned in steelgray patina, and there really are no significant problems. The amount of detail remaining to the Dollar suggests that this fascinating piece was constructed no later than the early 19th century.

Lot 43 was also of interest. This lot was a Sterling silver serving ladle with a 1798 Large Eagle Draped Bust Silver Dollar inserted in the base of the spoon. This piece was probably made much later in the 19th Century by M.W. Gault Brothers & Co. of Washington, DC, with the firm's name stamped on the back of the handle. The 1798 Dollar was cataloged as having "AU Details." This lot realized $3,565.00.

Lot 42, the sewing needle cushion 1798 Dollar realized $1,610, less than half of what I expected and was prepared to bid. This was a welcome surprise.

Even better, when the lot was mailed to me it turned out to be a 1798 B-19, BB-106 Dollar, a pretty tough R-5. This die marriage is relatively easy to attribute – the die break on Liberty's hair has a 'V' like cut under the E of LIBERTY.

This story is not quite over. The dealer who had been my agent called me shortly after the sale, and said that a collector of engraved and other early U.S. coinage was very disappointed that he had missed the lot in the sale. Would I consider parting with this piece?

I pondered this for a few weeks, and then made a tough decision. The collector who wanted this piece has shared much of his collection with me over the years, and I know how passionate a collector he is. This piece belonged in his collection. I agreed to sell the piece to this collector.

The exchange took place at the 2008 Baltimore ANA Convention. After talking with the collector at the show, I felt good about decision I had made.

I do miss my pin cushion, and am still wondering on occasion if a bunch of 1798 B-19 Dollars ended up in a pin cushion factory one day, contributing to the scarcity of this die marriage.

The obverse of a rare 1798 B-19, BB-106 Dollar converted into a sewing pin cushion. The silver dollar is actually remarkably well preserved. Photo courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

The reverse of the 1798 B-19 Dollar ("blank" silver dollar sized disc). Note you can see the pin heads sticking out from the cushion, which is centered between the silver dollar and the silver disc. What we can't see is the reverse of this silver dollar. Photo courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

Obverse and Reverse of a high grade1798 B-19, BB-106 Dollar from the author's collection. You can see the die break in Liberty's hair under the E of LIBERTY clearly on this specimen, which makes this die marriage relatively easy to attribute.

Note the pin cushion tucked between the 1798 B-19, BB-106 Dollar and the blank silver disk. You can see the edge lettering on the Dollar as well as a few pins. Photo courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

Obverse of a 1798 Dollar "In a Spoon." Photo Courtesy of Bowers & Merena.

Underside of the spoon showing the reverse of a 1798 Dollar. Photo Courtesy of Bowers & Merena

Bust Dime Census

Charles D. Horning, DDS

Welcome to the 2009 Bust Dime Census. Our last Census, for reference, was Volume 17/Issue 2 in August 2006. In the nearly 3 years that have transpired, several events have occurred to mark the transition of important collections.

In addition, the landmark Jules Reiver Sale of January 2006 by Heritage still possesses immense interest for collectors. Jules' collection of US coins was vast, nearly complete by die marriage and deep in die progressions.

His collection contained great rarities – both in original condition rarity as well as in damaged and abused condition – but rare.

It was an eccentric collection that has had no equal in terms of numismatic mining possibilities. One could easily find the best and worst of a die marriage adjacent to one another. The most prominent example of this dichotomy lies in 2 lots (#22168 and 22169) – the very rare 1821 JR-2 dime. Lot 22168 described as XF details but with deep gouges on the obverse portrait (NCS – damage) sold for $2990. Lot 22169, an NGC F12, without any problems, sold for $6325. Preservation and problem free coins, one could conclude, truly matter and are valued highly by collectors.

Owning this catalogue is a priority for every collector of early federal coinage.

The majority of the prices realized were strong, indicating the advancement in collector interest and willingness to pay for rarity.

2006 was a very good year for auctions but not the height of the market. That proved to be the Baltimore ANA July-August 2008. At that time, and of particular interest to dime collectors was the Heritage Auction of the Ed Price collection.

As collectors of the earliest dimes will note, Ed's collection was enumerated in our last census. At that time, we knew that this was the most complete and finest early dime collection ever assembled. Ed's wonderful numismatic eye, his dedication to research and provenance and his unerring pursuit of numismatic perfection were well rewarded at the auction. If one aspires to become the consummate numismatist, mimicking Ed's efforts will provide one with the perfect path to follow.

For the Draped Bust Series, we are tweaking several rarities, so study the changes carefully.

Regarding the Capped Bust Series, what has been learned and what is new to this series over the past 2 ½ years: not much – the end....just kidding, but that's fairly close. Collections have become more complete and certainly upgraded regarding quality.

We are making several significant rarity changes in the rarity ratings for this census. Overall, based on our experience, rare still remains rare. The most significant change is the popular 1829 JR-10 (curl base 2) to an R-5+ from an R-6-. Louis Scuderi has meticulously documented the existence of 30 specimens.

Since this die marriage is by far the most recognizable rarity in the bust dime series, as well as a Red Book variety, it is on every cherry picker's list. Expect more examples to come to light.

There have been several new examples of this die marriage that have surfaced in the last few years. Thorough documentation has led us to make this change with confidence.

Most notably among the already known examples is the Bowers and Merena example sold as lot No. 425 on January 4, 2009 at FUN. This coin was a PCGS VF 30 example (realizing $34,500) and is reported to be the 2nd finest known. The finest known (PCGS AU53) is most elusive and has, to my knowledge, never been seen by a JRCS member.

There are three other Capped Bust dime rarity changes:

1) 1824 JR-2 to an R-5+ - try to find a nice one!
2) 1825 JR-4 to an R-3- - a minor tweaking
3) 1827 JR-2 to R-5+ - another tough low grade marriage

Another die marriage rarity, the elusive 1821 JR-2 appeared in the ANR auction of March 2006, just after the last census was put to bed. This example, graded VF20 by PCGS, bearing the Lovejoy and Logan provenance, sold for $6500.

Regarding current investigations, Kirk Gorman, an outstanding bust dime researcher, will hopefully complete his edge die variety study in the near future. Who knew our beloved dimes had variations on the edges?

Hopefully, our readers will have referenced Jim Matthews' wonderful study of full and retained cuds on our dimes, published in the JRJ Volume 16 Issue 3 June, 2005.

In this census, we are publishing a table based on his work with input from other collectors, notably Louis Scuderi and this author (Table 2). In addition, we are adding two other items that we believe will be of interest:
a) The archived collection of Jules Reiver (Table 3)
b) A listing of all the die marriages we believe to be almost unavailable in uncirculated condition (Table 1). There are notations attached to this listing. Please be aware that this table is not the gospel!

For the most in depth description of the known Draped Bust cuds, please refer to Ed Price's information in the JR News, Issue 58 (jrnews@nyc.rr.com).

The Heritage Auction of Ed's collection (July 31, 2008) contains the most detailed description of each variety in his collection. The terminal die state information is also contained in this catalogue.

My thanks to my wonderful friend Clyde Gavin, without whose consummate patience and computer expertise, none of our tables and compilations would have been possible.

We obviously hope that you find the information contained here to be valuable and accurate. Any errors of commission or omission are the sole responsibility of this author.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Horning, D.D.S.

Condition Sensitive Marriages

Year	Marriage	Notes
1821	JR-2	1 known UNC
1824	JR-2	finest known XF 40
1827	JR-2	finest known AU 53
	JR-9	Possible UNC(s)
1829	JR-8	1 known UNC
	JR-10	curl base 2
1830	JR-1	finest known AU 50
1834	JR-3	finest known AU 58

Table 1

Draped Bust Dime Census

March 2009

Year	JR #	Rarity	622	950	LM13	1068	048	238	869	1302	513	835	893	664	RPD	AVG	MAX
1792	1	5															
1796	1	3	15						6	63					3	28	63
	2	4					4						45		2	25	45
	3	5	30		58										2	44	58
	4	4															
	5	5		53	45									43	3	47	53
	6	3						4							2	4	4
	7	8															
1797	1	4	4		50	3									3	19	50
	2	4	20	45			4	2		58					5	26	58
1798	1	3	10	61		10				63	40				5	37	63
	2	6	3	15	45		3					5			5	14	45
	3	5				2									1	2	2
	4	3	40		4	12	8	2		58					6	21	58
1800	1	4	30	40				3					40		4	28	40
	2	5		45		10	2				35				4	23	45
1801	1	4	30	50		15		4							4	25	50
	2	5	30	40	4	8	3		4						6	15	40
1802	1	8															
	2	5		45	45	2									3	31	45
	3	5	20		45										2	33	45
	4	4	30	40	8		4	2							5	17	40
1803	1	7	4	2	40										3	15	40
	2	8	30	12	58									40	4	35	58
	3	4		45	55	4	3	4							5	22	55
	4	5	12												1	12	12
	5	8	6		40										2	23	40
1804	1	5		15			3	2							3	7	15
	2	5	2	2											2	2	2
1805	1	3	6			6	3	3	25			3			8	8	25
	2	2	30	62		25	2		15		58	3			8	28	62
1807	1	2	10	62		25	55	6	25		50				7	33	62
			622	950	LM13	1068	048	238	869	1302	513	835	893	664		32	
Varieties Owned			20	17	13	12	12	10	5	4	4	3	2	2		KNOWN	
Average Grade			18	37	38	10	8	3	15	61	46	4	43	42		DIE	
																MARRIAGES	

Capped Bust Dime Census

March 2009

Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	960	001	622	263A	002	323	238	578	1068	263B	644	048	LM13	869	RPD	AVG	MAX
1809	1	4	58	40	50	30	40	15	10	8	25	6	6	62	4		20	24	27	62
1811	1	3	58	30	40	30	40	25	20	12	53	15	15	4	40	25	15	27	28	58
1814	1	3	12	58	40	30	30	30	8	40	35	25	12	4	12	50	15	27	27	58
	2	3	10	55	40	45	40	40	10	40	20	12	30	15	3	50		22	29	55
	3	2	45	40	55	30	55	40	40	8	45	25	12	25	10	55	30	24	34	55
	4	2	45	40	30	40	45	40	25	12	55	25	4	45	3	30	20	26	31	55
	5	3	10	50	45	50	30	40	30	10	53	30	30	8	3	55	6	25	30	55
1820	1	4	25	55	40	35	55	40	20	6	30	40	35	4	6	50	30	26	31	55
	2	3	45	55	50	60	50	25	45	8	45	20	18	15	12	50	20	26	35	60
	3	4	25	45	40	58	30	40	6	30	50	50	12	3	6	40	10	20	30	58
	4	5	65	30	45	50	30	40	40	12	20	40	8	4	12	12	4	20	27	65
	5	4	64	30	45	45	55	25	12	8	4	20	20	15	8	15	12	25	25	64
	6	3	64	55	40	58	35	40	4	12	58	20	15	20	8	35	12	24	32	64
	7	2	50	62	55	20	12	25	35	8	35	55	6	35	9	45	10	24	31	62
	8	3	64	58	50	55	50	25	8	20	55	20	25	20	10	35	20	20	34	64
	9	4	53	30	25	45	30	25	8	12	55	12	12	4	10	35		16	25	55
	10	3	35	50	20	45	25	40	12	10	62	25	12	15	4	50	20	22	28	62
	11	3	64	58	45	50	35	25	50	12	53	30	20	8	20	25	10	27	34	64
	12	6	60	50	12	12	45	45	12	6	20	10	30		30	50		14	29	60
	13	3	64	50	55	50	12	40	12	30	20	35	4	3	4		15	23	28	64
1821	1	2	64	50	40	35	20	25	45	10	25	45	4	3	10	40	8	25	28	64
	2	6+	20	4	25	30	20	20	4	6	6	15	12	20	15	12		15	15	30
	3	4	60	25	50	30	35	25	12	8	25	15	30	20	6	40	12	23	26	60
	4	2	64	50	55	50	40	40	30	25	58	40	8	8	6	40	8	29	35	64
	5	3	63	55	40	60	35	25	45	20	50	25	20	15	20	55	20	30	37	63
	6	2	45	58	50	20	12	20	6	8	58	45	4	40	8	40	12	25	28	58
	7	2	40	62	45	20	15	25	30	30	50	20	12	4	8		20	26	27	62
	8	2	64	45	55	50	30	25	20	12	55	45	8	20	20	55	12	24	34	64
	9	2	12	50	50	50	8	15	15	20	30	20	3	4	8	25	15	21	22	50
	10	4+	64	20	50	25	20	25	4	12	40	12	12	61	12	20	10	18	26	64
1822	1	4	40	6	50	20	50	25	4	8	20	3	15	20	3		8	18	19	50
1823	1	3	65	50	50	50	35	40	8	15	58	25	10	45	12	50	8	28	35	65
	2	5-	25	58	60	45	55	25	8	8	30	35	35	8	10	50	6	26	31	60
	3	2	55	53	50	20	35	40	6	8	40	45	6	15	15	45	12	32	30	55
1824	1	3	10	50	45	40	50	40	8	4	58	35	30	4	61		10	30	32	61
	2	5+	35	8	20	8	10	45	8	4	18	3	3	3	4	25		15	14	45
1825	1	4	65	58	50	55	25	25	10	8	58	30	20	15	8	58		21	35	65
	2	2	60	55	40	35	55	25	10	30	55	35	4	25	15	50	12	27	34	60
	3	4	62	40	45	40	30	25	15	15	50	30	15	15	35	50	30	23	33	62

Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	960	001	622	263A	002	323	238	578	1068	263B	644	048	LM13	869	RPD	AVG	MAX
1825	4	3-	62	55	40	30	35	50	3	8	50	25	12	8	8	45		25	31	62
	5	5	66	64	45	35	58	40	30	4	50	8	35	8	12	58	3	27	34	66
1827	1	3	61	35	60	30	50	25	6	55	12	30	15	6	10		40	21	31	61
	2	5+	12	8	30	30	30	40	15	4	20	4	25	8	10			22	18	40
	3	1	45	55	45	20	8	40	60	12	58	10	4	3	4		30	19	28	60
	4	2	64	55	45	45	12	40	30	12	53	35	8	15		40	15	22	34	64
	5	3	66	53	35	45	50	40	10	8	40	20	45	20	2	40	20	27	33	66
	6	2	64	45	45	20	50	40	40	12	53	20	10	20	12	55	20	20	34	64
	7	3	63	62	50	30	40	40	30	10	55	40	12	8	4	40	8	22	33	63
	8	4	25	40	45	58	30	25	30	12	63	20	10	8	6	55	6	25	29	63
	9	4+	58	40	30	40	35	40	15	6	58	25	20	4	15	55	6	26	30	58
	10	6+	4	10	40	30	6						6					6	16	40
	11	2	25	35	50	40	30	25	20	10	62	8	12	10	4		6	22	24	62
	12	1	25	55	45	45	12	25	6	12	62	25	8	30	4		8	21	26	62
	13	3	65	58	45	40	25	25	25	10	55	15	12	20	8	30	3	25	29	65
1828	1	2	40	55	60	45	35	25	40	12	58	45	15	20	20	45	20	24	36	60
	2	3	63	55	50	40	35	25	4	15	55	25	15	8	9	53	20	27	31	63
1829	1	4+	64	62	45	55	55	40	4	40		15	12	8	12		20	22	33	64
	2	2	58	55	60	50	30	25	6	12	50	4	20	50	4	50	30	23	34	60
	3	4	63	40	50	40	50	25	20	25	53	3	4	15	7	55		21	32	63
	4	2	30	40	60	40	40	25	50	20	62	45	20	10	10	55	20	25	35	62
	5	4	45	35	50	55	45	40	50	4	50	10	20	4	15	45		22	33	55
	6	3	65	45	55	40	45	50	45	12	40	15	8	20	15	53	35	18	36	65
	7	1	64	55	60	35	30	45	40	15	58	3	12	8		50	30	18	36	64
	8	4	45	6	50	45	15	45	15	4	40	8	6	8	20	30		17	24	50
	9	4	64	35	60	35	35	40	50	6	61	6	12	50	8	55		21	37	64
	10	5+	8	4	12	6	8	15	10	4	10							9	9	15
	11	4	63	45	60	58	40	25	8	25	20	10	40	10	3	45	12	21	31	63
	12	3	66	58	50	45	8	40	10	50	58	55	8	63	4	12	15	20	36	66
1830	1	4+	45	25	10	30	50	25	12	10	18	6	45	8	20	15		47	23	50
	2	1	64	53	40	45	40	45	30	40	62	30	6	50	45	50	40	25	43	64
	3	3	64	58	40	40	45	50	30	30	50	30	12	8	2	61	8	26	35	64
	4	2	64	61	55	50	40	50	15	45	55	50	20	20	8	45	12	25	39	64
	5	2	65	58	40	40	30	45	40	30	63	3	12	4	6	35	35	22	34	65
	6	2	64	30	45	55	35	40	30	12	62	30	12	20	3	40	30	23	34	64
	7	4	63	40	50	30	35	40	35	10	20	25	30	6	20	30	10	25	30	63
	8	3	64	63	40	50	30	40	8	40	62	35	10	40	15		8	17	36	64
1831	1	1	40	50	50	55	30	40	8	8	61	25	8	15	35	45	8	23	32	61
	2	3	65	55	60	45	12	25	45	55	55	15	10	8	7		40	17	36	65
	3	1	65	63	45	55	12	25	12	30	40	40	6	61	6	55	20	27	36	65
	4	2	64	58	45	45	25	40	40	20	55	45	25	40	4	35	45	25	39	64
	5	1	58	55	50	30	35	40	35	30	62	12	40	20	7	63	6	31	36	63
	6	3	65	55	50	40	50	40	40	15	55	30	20	20	12	50		18	39	65
1832	1	2	64	40	60	30	40	25	8	8	15	15	15	12	10	50	20	22	27	64
	2	2	40	62	45	40	45	40	45	10	58	45	20	45	12	50	35	26	39	62
	3	4	64	55	40	50	55	40	20	20	10	6	45	20	12	50	8	37	33	64
	4	3	45	58	45	30	10	25	8	8	58	53	10	15	3	55	6	20	29	58

Year	JR #	Rarity	LM32	960	001	622	263A	002	323	238	578	1068	263B	644	048	LM13	869	RPD	AVG	MAX
1832	5	2	64	55	60	55	15	50	53	12	55	30	8	15	10	40	10	22	35	64
	6	3	64	45	55	55	8	40	30	55	45	25	10	8	10		6	19	33	64
	7	3	61	53	45	50	45	40	40	45	62	25	15	10	4	35	20	20	37	62
1833	1	3	65	53	40	30	35	40	30	12	50	15	12	8	15	61	20	22	32	65
	2	5	63	40	60	50	45	8	8	20	10	3	18	20	10	50		19	29	63
	3	6	63	35	60	45	10	20	15	15	53	6		20		20		17	30	63
	4	1	66	55	58	35	12	40	50	12	63	45	10	53	12	35	20	52	38	66
	5	1	25	58	45	45	15	25	50	15	61	30	10	20	4	40	20	27	31	61
	6	1	64	58	40	55	12	25	10	10	63	15	12	4	12	55	8	20	30	64
	7	5	58	63	25	40	25	40	15	20	61	3	12	4	8	63	10	26	30	63
	8	5	64	35	60	50	45	40	12	45	58	20	30	20	15	35	15	29	36	64
	9	2	58	55	60	45	20	40	10	10	45	25	15	45	12	50	12	25	33	60
	10	3	64	55	60	40	30	40	10	15	55	53	12	45	9	40	40	23	38	64
1834	1	1	66	55	55	45	45	25	40	15	58	20	8	64	3		45	19	39	66
	2	3	65	62	50	50	35	40	40	30	63	45	30	15	15	45	20	28	40	65
	3	5	58	55	40	40	45	8	35	8	40	12	30	4	6	8	20	26	27	58
	4	3	62	53	45	20	58	40	30	12	40	8	15	4	20	25	20	25	30	62
	5	1	65	35	45	45	20	40	10	12	63	50	10	40	6	63	35	25	36	65
	6	2	65	55	60	63	35	40	45	12	62	35	8	15	15	55	45	36	41	65
	7	2	64	40	60	58	35	40	20	45	55	45	6	12	12	55	35	23	39	64
1835	1	1	65	58	55	50	10	25	30	12	35	12	8	15	12	50	20	27	30	65
	2	4	66	63	50	55	35	40	15	20	50	45	12	40	30	45	20	23	39	66
	3	2	65	53	45	62	35	40	8	8	55	40	6	45	8	55	30	24	37	65
	4	2	65	45	60	55	40	40	20	10	55	35	15	8	8	40	20	20	34	65
	5	1	64	58	50	55	10	40	20	10	45	40	15	20	3	55	40	22	35	64
	6	4	64	50	40	55	40	40	6	8	18	30	12	3	10	58	20	19	30	64
	7	5	60	58	55	45	45	40	25	20	45	45	35	4	12	55	40	24	39	60
	8	3	64	45	55	20	12	25	8	8	55	25	6	25	9	40	30	20	28	64
	9	2	65	55	45	50	12	25	45	8	62	20	8	20	6	45	40	20	34	65
1836	1	3	65	58	45	20	35	25	8	8	62	50	10	50	15	12	25	21	33	65
	2	2	66	53	45	45	45	40	58	15	58	30	3	8	6	30	40	20	36	66
	3	3	64	53	45	55	40	25	50	12	62	45	6	20	10	30	15	26	35	64
1837	1	4	53	35	30	62	55	50	4	12	62	45	45	4	10	40	30	24	36	62
	2	3	55	58	60	58	8	25	15	20	50	20	4	10	9	53	10	25	30	60
	3	2	66	50	45	40	8	40	8	20	40	53	8	15	12	45	30	22	32	66
	4	1	66	58	45	30	20	25	12	12	63	20	6	15	15		20	21	29	66

	LM32	960	001	622	263A	002	323	238	578	1068	263B	644	048	LM13	869
Varieties Owned	122	122	122	122	122	121	121	121	120	120	120	119	117	104	104
Average Grade	54	48	46	42	32	34	22	17	47	26	15	19	11	43	19

122 KNOWN DIE MARRIAGES

Capped Bust Dime Census By Grade

Total Reported
March 2009

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1809	1	4	3	6	3	4	3	4	1	24
1811	1	3	3	2	6	8	6	2		27
1814	1	3	3	2	6	9	4	3		27
	2	3	4	2	5	2	6	3		22
	3	2	1	3	3	8	6	3		24
	4	2	3	3	3	9	7	1		26
	5	3	3	7	3	6	2	4		25
1820	1	4	3	3	6	8	3	3		26
	2	3	1	2	7	8	3	4	1	26
	3	4	2	3	4	4	4	3		20
	4	5	3	1	4	6	4	1	1	20
	5	4	2	6	6	6	3	1	1	25
	6	3	2	2	5	7	4	3	1	24
	7	2	1	7	1	7	3	4	1	24
	8	3		3	2	9		5	1	20
	9	4	1	2	3	7	1	2		16
	10	3	1	2	7	6	3	2	1	22
	11	3	1	3	3	12	2	5	1	27
	12	6		3	3	3	2	2	1	14
	13	3	5	2	6	4	2	3	1	23
1821	1	2	4	5	1	7	5	1	2	25
	2	6+	3	2	4	6				15
	3	4		4	5	10	2	1	1	23
	4	2	1	7	5	6	4	5	1	29
	5	3	3	1	6	13	2	3	2	30
	6	2	3	4	5	6	4	3		25
	7	2	1	5	6	8	4	1	1	26
	8	2	1	2	5	7	3	5	1	24
	9	2	3	4	5	6		3		21
	10	4+	1	2	5	6	1	1	2	18
1822	1	4	3	3	2	6	2	2		18

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1823	1	3	1	6	6	7	2	5	1	28
	2	5-		11	3	6	2	3	1	26
	3	2	4	8	4	6	6	3	1	32
1824	1	3	6	9	4	2	4	4	1	30
	2	5+	5	5	1	3	1			15
1825	1	4	1	5	1	7	1	5	1	21
	2	2	2	3	5	10	2	4	1	27
	3	4		1	6	9	3	3	1	23
	4	3-	3	7	4	5	2	3	1	25
	5	5	4	8	3	4	3	3	2	27
1827	1	2	1	6	3	6	1	2	2	21
	2	5+	6	4	4	7	1			22
	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	3	1	19
	4	2		2	6	6	4	3	1	22
	5	3	3	5	3	6	7	2	1	27
	6	2		2	4	5	5	3	1	20
	7	3	3	6	3	2	4	2	2	22
	8	4	3	7	2	7	3	2	1	25
	9	4+	1	9	3	7	3	3		26
	10	6+	1	3		1	1			6
	11	2	2	7	2	8	1	1	1	22
	12	1	2	5	4	6	2	1	1	21
	13	3	4	3	4	6	4	2	2	25
1828	1	2		1	5	8	6	2	2	24
	2	3	5	5	4	6	1	5	1	27
1829	1	4+	4	2	4	4	3	3	2	22
	2	2	3	5	3	4	1	6	1	23
	3	4	3	1	3	6	2	5	1	21
	4	2		5	1	7	8	2	2	25
	5	4	3	3	1	3	6	6		22
	6	3		1	4	3	5	4	1	18
	7	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	2	18
	8	4	2	5	2	2	5	1		17
	9	4	1	5	4	3	2	3	3	21
	10	5+	2	5	2					9
	11	4	2	7	1	3	5	1	2	21
	12	3	2	3	3	1	4	5	2	20

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1830	1	4+	5	22	7	9	3	1		47
	2	1	2	4	3	3	8	3	2	25
	3	3	4	7	1	4	4	4	2	26
	4	2	2	5	3	4	3	6	2	25
	5	2	2	2	3	5	4	4	2	22
	6	2	1	5	4	7	3	1	2	23
	7	4	1	5	3	12	2	1	1	25
	8	3		5	1	2	5	1	3	17
1831	1	1		8	1	6	4	3	1	23
	2	3		5	2	2	3	3	2	17
	3	1	5	6	3	4	4	2	3	27
	4	2	2	4	3	4	7	3	2	25
	5	1	1	9	3	8	4	3	3	31
	6	3	1	1	3	3	4	5	1	18
1832	1	2		6	5	4	4	1	2	22
	2	2	2	3	4	4	10	2	1	26
	3	4	9	5	5	6	6	5	1	37
	4	3	1	7	1	3	2	5	1	20
	5	2		5	4	2	3	6	2	22
	6	3	1	6		4	4	3	1	19
	7	3	1	4	1	4	6	2	2	20
1833	1	3		1	5	6	5	2	3	22
	2	5	2	6	1	4	2	2	2	19
	3	6		2	3	4	3	3	2	17
	4	1	17	5	7	13	4	4	2	52
	5	1	2	5	6	6	4	3	1	27
	6	1	1	5	6	1	1	4	2	20
	7	5	5	6	3	5	2	2	3	26
	8	5	1	7	4	7	4	4	2	29
	9	2		5	6	4	5	4	1	25
	10	3		5	3	2	8	3	2	23
1834	1	1	1	2	2	4	5	3	2	19
	2	3	2	5	4	7	4	3	3	28
	3	5	4	9	2	5	4	2		26
	4	3	3	6	3	6	3	3	1	25
	5	1	3	6	2	4	6	1	3	25
	6	2	11	4	6	4	5	2	4	36
	7	2		3	3	8	4	3	2	23

Year	JR #	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1835	1	1	1	6	6	7	2	4	1	27
	2	4		1	3	5	8	4	2	23
	3	2	1	7	1	3	6	4	2	24
	4	2		5	2	5	4	2	2	20
	5	1	1	3	2	5	6	4	1	22
	6	4	2	3	2	5	3	3	1	19
	7	5	3	2	2	7	6	3	1	24
	8	3		7	2	5	3	2	1	20
	9	2		4	3	4	4	3	2	20
1836	1	3		3	3	8	1	3	3	21
	2	2	1	3	1	4	5	3	3	20
	3	3	1	8	2	6	3	3	3	26
1837	1	4	3	5	2	3	5	3	3	24
	2	3	1	6	3	4	4	5	2	25
	3	2		4	4	5	5	3	1	22
	4	1		2	5	9	1	2	2	21

Total reported in all grades 2,853

Known CUDS (Full & Retained)
On Capped Bust Dimes

(Table 2)

March 2009

Variety	OBV REV	Description	Estimated Rarity
1820 JR-6	O	Rim to * 5 (M. Sherrill) Ret. Cud	8
	R	Above "NITE"	8
1820 JR-10	R	Above "NITE"	6+
1825 JR-1	O	* 3 - 6	4+
1825 JR-3	O	Rim between * 3-4 (Reiver)	6+
1825 JR-4	O	* 8 - 11 (J. Matthews) Ret. Cud	7+
1829 JR-4	R	Cud over "ER" and Ret. Cud over "NITE"	6+
1829 JR-5	R	Rim/dentils L of "U"	6+
1830 JR-1	R	Above "UNI"	5+
1830 JR-3	O	* 6 to dentils and * 7 to turban and * 8 - 9 to rim	7-
	R	Above "NITE" and above "IC"	
1830 JR-4	O	Dentils above nearly to cap	7
	R	Rim to "M"	
1830 JR-5	O	Dentils above turban	5
1831 JR-3	R	Above "ER"	6+
1831 JR-4	R	Above "ED" and later "CA" to arrowhead	7
1831 JR-5	R	Above "UNI"	5
1831 JR-6	O	Rim to * 1 - 2- -3	8
1832 JR-2	O	On rim L of date -- virtually all have this collar cud	2
1832 JR-3	O	All show collar cud	4
	R	A3 to arrowheads and 0 in 10c thru arrowshafts to "M"	6+
	R	VLDS (L. Scuderi)	7+
1833 JR-1	R	R of "D" to "E2" Ret. Cud	5-
1833 JR-3	R	"A3" to arrowheads	6
1833 JR-4	R	"E1" to "A1" and later "A1" to "A2"	3
1833 JR-8	R	"OF" to "A2"	7
1834 JR-2	R	"A1" to "F"	7
1834 JR-5	O	"834" in date to rim	7
1834 JR-6	R	1) thru "MERI" 2) "A3" to arrowheads 3) rarer: "A1" thru "S"	3
1835 JR-1	R	"A3" thru arrowheads to period	7
1835 JR-2	R	Thru "MERIC"	7
1835 JR-3	R	"A1" thru "A2"	6
1835 JR-4	R	"A3" and arrowheads	7
1837 JR-2	R	Wing to "E3"	7

Jules Reiver Collection

Heritage Galleries

January 24th - 28th, 2006

(Table 3)

Grade is assigned in Heritage Auction Catalog. Problem or damaged coins have been listed reflecting the lowest numerical grade within the letter designated preservation (i.e. XF=40) unless otherwise noted in the catalog.

NOTE: Many coins in this archived collection had problems. For more details, please see the auction catalog.

Year	JR#	Grade
1796	1	XF40
	2	F12
	3	VG8
	4	VF20
	5	VF30
	6	XF40
1797	1	XF40
	2	VF20
	3	AU50
	4	VF20
1800	1	XF40
	2	F12
1801	1	VF20
	2	AU50
	3	AG3
	4	XF40
1803	1	VF20
	2	F12
	3	VG6
	4	VF20
1804	1	VG8
	2	XF40
1805	1	
	2	XF45
1807	1	AU50

Year	JR#	Grade
1809	1	XF40
1811	1	XF45
1814	1	AU50
	2	VF20
	3	AU58
	4	XF40
	5	VF30
1820	1	AU50
	2	AU50
	3	VF35
	4	VF20
	5	VG8
	6	VF35
	7	XF45
	8	VF30
	9	XF40
	10	VF20
	11	AU55
	12	AU50
	13	XF45
1821	1	XF40
	2	F12
	3	XF45
	4	VF35
	5	AU55
	6	VF30
	7	AU50

Year	JR#	Grade
1821	8	XF40
	9	AU50
	10	AU50
1822	1	AU50
1823	1	VF20
	2	VG10
	3	AU50
1824	1	AU50
	2	VF25
1825	1	AU58
	2	AU55
	3	AU50
	4	XF40
	5	F12
1827	1	VF30
	2	G4
	3	XF45
	4	AU50
	5	VF35
	6	AU50
	7	VF30
	8	VF20
	9	AU50
	10	
	11	AU50
	12	XF40
	13	AU50

Year	JR#	Grade
1828	1	AU50
	2	AU53
1829	1	VF30
	2	AU55
	3	AU55
	4	VF15
	5	XF45
	6	AU53
	7	AU50
	8	VF20
	9	VF25
	10	G4
	11	AU50
	12	UNC60
1830	1	VG10
	2	AU50
	3	MS61
	4	AU55
	5	AU50
	6	XF40
	7	AU50
	8	AU50
1831	1	AU58
	2	XF40

Year	JR#	Grade
1831	3	XF40
	4	AU55
	5	AU50
	6	AU50
1832	1	AU55
	2	AU50
	3	VF20
	4	AU55
	5	AU55
	6	AU50
	7	AU50
1833	1	MS61
	2	MS63
	3	AU50
	4	VF30
	5	AU58
	6	AU55
	7	AU58
	8	AU50
	9	MS60
	10	AU55
1834	1	XF40
	2	AU53
	3	XF40

Year	JR#	Grade
1834	4	AU53
	5	AU50
	6	AU50
	7	VF20
1835	1	AU58
	2	XF40
	3	AU55
	4	XF45
	5	AU55
	6	AU58
	7	VF35
	8	VF20
	9	AU55
1836	1	AU58
	2	XF40
	3	AU58
1837	1	AU50
	2	AU53
	3	AU50
	4	AU53

A Very Late Die State: Report of the 8th Known Example of the 1818 O.104b Bust Half

Michael S. Fey

This is to report a recent acquisition of a raw XF+/AU 1818 O.104b . It appears to be a very late die state, even a later die state than the Reiver coin, with a heavy die break (raised metal) above the right star and now a second one at the portrait just above the "18" in the date (see arrow in photo). I don't believe this die break and crumbling in the portrait area has been reported before. Further, a weakness of detail is noted on the right half of the portrait, perhaps due to the die buckling. There's a radial die crack from the rim to the left of the "1" in the date intersecting with the left and right cracks and break. In my experience with Morgan dollars (ie: The 1878 VAM 44, the so-called "King" of Morgan dollar varieties), "Y" shaped radial cracks spell quick death for a die.

According to Steven Herrman, publisher of the **Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839**, the 1818 O.104b die state as listed in AMBPR was first reported as Lot 89 in Downey Mail Bid Sale 31 (The San Francisco Sale), closing July 27, 2005. The description for the lot stated, "1818 O.104a R.3 NGC AU 53. A remarkable die state that we might call O.104"b". The crack Overton describes for O.104a as passing "from edge to cap" continues on, traversing the cap and headband as a thick break, finally ending in Liberty's curls. An additional undescribed break commences at the rim above the cap, circling down through stars 8-13."

The second auction record is the NGC VF 25 from the Heritage 390 sale of the Reiver collection in January 2006, Lot 22767.

The third auction record is the raw EF 45 specimen offered in Downey Mail Bid 33 (Rutherford), closing August 8, 2007, Lot 168. The lot was described as follows, "1818 O.104"b" R.7? XF 45. This is the undescribed terminal state of 104, with an unlisted crack thru stars 8-13, a die chip (not a break) below the clasp, and the crack at star 7 as heavy and oozing as your will see on a Capped Bust Half. The consignor could track only 6 similar specimens, including the one offered in MB 31, lot 89, NGC AU 53 and Jules Reiver's NGC VF 25."

Based on the description in Downey MB 33 and my recent discovery, it appears there are at least 8 pieces known. I, and Mr. Herrman suspect there are a few more of these that remain unreported, so you might want to check those 1818 BHD's carefully.

1818 O.104b Obverse with Die Breaks

1818 O.104b Reverse

Collector Acquires Scarce Variety

Mike Rupert

A very scarce variety in the small Capped Bust quarter series has been identified and acquired from a recently held auction. The 1835 B3 variety is rated an R4+ in the new comprehensive book on the series authored by Steve Tompkins. It is virtually unknown in mint state with one raw example listed as BU from a Stack's auction held in 1985.

The second finest known was graded by ANACS as an AU 58 and is housed in an old, small holder. It sold in the Heritage Bullet Sale #289 held in April of 2002 in Columbus, Ohio at the Central States convention. The newly discovered example is also encapsulated in the old style ANACS holder and graded AU 58, tying it for the second finest known.

The collector, who wishes to remain anonymous, is attempting to complete the series by die marriage. Acquisition of this coin provided a major upgrade. "While there appears to be no wear on the coin," he notes, "the luster is broken across the devices and there are some minor tick marks in the fields. I believe the coin to be accurately graded." His other example is graded EF 45 by ANACS in the same style holder.

His collection showcases every obverse & sixteen of the eighteen reverse dies known to have been used. "I practice my identification skills by attributing small quarters at every opportunity I get and that is paying a huge dividend." he said. "Just a few months ago I was outbid at the last second for an un-attributed R5 variety. It also helps in identifying when something is a bargain."

When asked about how this affects his future collecting, he said, "It has certainly changed my approach. While looking for marriages I need, I also search for other varieties that warrant special attention. The new book by Steve Tompkins has been a real eye opener because I learned to pay more attention to some of the ones I already own."

Cuds on Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Half Dollars

Bradley Higgins

Draped bust half dollars with the heraldic eagle reverse were coined from 1801 to 1807 and were replaced at some point in that final year by John Reich's capped bust design. Due to a design flaw in the dies, cracks would often form and lead to premature die failure. Cracks that formed near the edges sometimes broke away and left raised blobs of unstruck metal. These are sometimes referred to as cuds. They are found only on 1805 and early 1806 halves, with the curious exception of 1806 O.120. This die pairing was struck near the end of the run of 1806 halves and this may actually be an example of die spalling. Changes in die engineering in 1807 meant the end of this type of catastrophic die failure. An anomaly that won't be explored here is a phenomenon sometimes referred to as dentil cuds where a solid bit of metal fills in a consecutive group of dentils but does not project into the fields. These are found or the reverse of 1806 O.107 and are found intermittently on 1806 O.106 and O.107. These marriages were struck from the same obverse die and when a feature is repeated intermittently on the same obverse, a remarriage may be indicated. However, die state and edge studies have not borne this out. More study is needed.

1805 O.113

The first cud to occur on a draped bust half is found on 1805 O.113, the first die pairing struck in 1805. There are three examples currently known to students of the series.

The second cud to occur is found on 1805 O.112, the second die pairing of the year. This is relatively available with perhaps 12-15 known. This cud is found in a different position than most at K12.

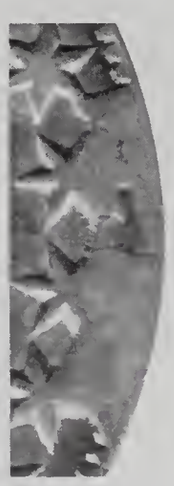
1805 O.112

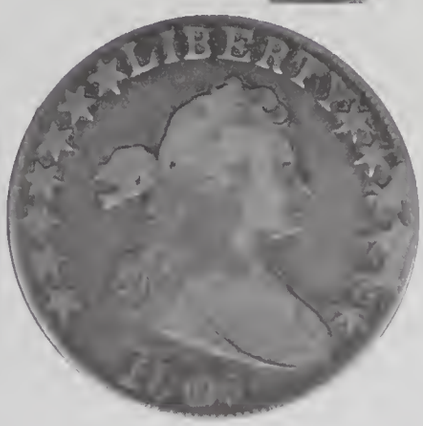
The next die pairing to suffer a cud is 1805 O.101, the fourth die marriage of 1805. This is currently the only known example.

1805 O.101

The first die produced from the new obverse hub failed spectacularly. The late state of O.104 is relatively available with perhaps a dozen specimens known. Pictured below is a sequence of three coins showing the progression of this cud.

Sequence of
1805 O.104 cuds





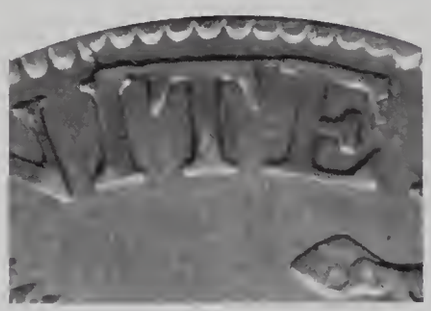
The next example is found on 1805 O.103 and may not be a cud. However, since it is so spectacular it is included here. This is one of the latest known, excluding Overton's 'b' state, which has not been definitively shown to exist. The coin pictured in Overton is merely a low grade example of the 'a' die state. If the 'b' state truly existed, with the obverse flake completely broken away, it would display no detail opposite the triangular break because there would be no portion of the obverse die there to support striking up of the design and it would sport a slight bend for the same reason. This effect will be demonstrated later.

1805 O.103

The next cud inadvertently produced in 1805 is O.105. This die pairing exhibits two reverse cuds and is the third use of this die, previously used on O.104 and O.103. The terminal state is pictured. Since virtually all 105's have this cud, it is the most available of 1805, however, the terminal state is very rare with only two or three known.

Pictured below is the second cud found on later state O.105's, a retained cud which shows recessed dentils within the crack, a hallmark of the retained phase of cud development.

1805 O.105



The final cud from 1805 is found on the final die marriage of the year, O.109. This cud is rare with only about four to six known.

1805 O.109

The first cud to appear in 1806 is found on the first die pairing struck that year, O.108. This massive cud is found on only two of the seven known O.108's. The example imaged is from the Charlton Meyer collection.

1806 O.108 Image courtesy of HLRC.com

The next cud to appear in 1806 is on O.104. Both dies were used in 1805; the obverse was used for O.105 and O.106 and the reverse was used for O.102, O.110, O.114 and O.108. The stress of annealing, overdating, and rehardening appears to have taken its toll as both dies failed quickly and thoroughly. The image below is of the latest die state example known, from the Westmoreland collection.

1806 O.104b
Images courtesy of HA.com

The next die marriage struck, O.106, also failed. This is a new discovery, found at the MidAmerica Expo in 2006. It is presently believed to be unique. The cud is still in the retained phase. Note how the dentils have receded within the crack.

1806 O.106

Close up of O.106 retained cud

Following O.106 is O.105. While the author is aware of only a single example from the Westmoreland collection, this cud is mentioned in Overton, so others may exist.

1806 O.105

Next is O.101, known by perhaps six examples.

1806 O.101

The final cud to be found on a draped bust half is on O.111. The latest state has two reverse cuds and when viewed from the side, appears to be bent due to lack of support from the failed die. This is easily the most available example of a draped bust half with a cud.

1806 O.111

The bend is visible in the following image-

The final die pairing struck with what appears to be a cud is 1806 O.120. This coin is from the Jules Reiver collection. I believe it is a die chip rather than a cud but have included it anyway. This is the only known example with this final chip.

1806 O.120

If you desire to collect terminal die states of draped bust halves, condition cannot often be a consideration. Specimens are offered infrequently, often appearing only when collections are dispersed. Patience is indispensible as well as the means to reach when opportunity avails itself. The reward is in the knowledge gained in witnessing the breakup of the precious dies that Scot and Reich prepared for the manufacture of our national coinage of two centuries ago.

References:

Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836 3rd edition by Al C. Overton.

Henry Voigt and Others Involved With America's First Coinage By Karl Moulton.

Master Die and Hub Changes for 1801-1807 Half Dollars and Integration with 1799-1804 Gold Eagle Reverses by Bill Nyberg John Reich Journal 18/3 Dec. 2007.

1805 Half Dollar Emission Sequence by author John Reich Journal 18/2 June 2007.

My Very First R6 Bust Dime

Richard Andrzejews

Being a type coin collector for many years, on again/off again as our family grew, I started a year set of bust dimes about 20 years ago since they were fascinating as well as cheap in F & VF grades. If I couldn't find any type coins at a show in my limited price range or quality, AU-MS63, I could always seem to come away with a nice dime. About five or six years ago I decided to expand my dime collecting to include major varieties by Breen. I thought it was crazy to look for a dime that the only difference was the position of a star, the spacing or how the lettering lined up.

Running into Brad, Larry Briggs and other serious bust collectors at some coin shows, all thought I should buy the book (Early US Dimes) and join JRCS. Well about three years ago I did both and have been a dime bustie ever since. Acquiring the Jules Reiver auction catalog and resulting prices realized was the major influence in continuing my quest to acquiring all the die varieties.

I normally try to get to the State shows (in the Midwest) on Fridays. A friend of mine from work wanted to go together on Saturday to the annual Indiana State show, so that was our original plan. Friday morning he indicated he couldn't make it, so I decided to take off at noon to go.

I entered the show about 1:45 and proceeded down the first aisle (of 3). I saw a nice selection of dimes at a nationally known dealer, all attributed, so there was no chance of cherry picking or a bargain. I proceeded further and saw a dealer near the end of the aisle who had a wide assortment of high grade type material. I stopped to look at his bust dime and quarter selections. While my dimes are primarily in fine-XF condition, I decided a couple of years ago to look at all bust dimes regardless of condition. Three were common, of which I had two in VF, but the 1833 AU I looked at appeared to be the JR3! I was sure by where the scroll ends under the center of the left leg, but I couldn't believe it could happen to me - finding a R6 dime in high grade.

I continued to analyze it, comparing it to the JR 4 and JR6 to see if I missed something. The dealer even asked if I was a variety collector, of which I was, and indicated I wanted to make sure it wasn't a duplicate. He gestured to me "I hope you find a rare variety. I'm happy if you are!" He didn't know how happy I really was! We settled on a price (he offered a discount) and I was nervous writing the check. Not because of the price but I wanted to get it in my possession before he changed his mind.

I spent the rest of the day talking to a couple of dealers I knew and understood I just cherry picked a rare dime. I only completed the first aisle but came back the next day to check out the other dealers but found nothing of interest. The dealer I bought from and one other that had a fair amount of bust material were pretty well picked over by early Saturday.

I guess we all can get lucky sometime. I will go with what two dealers' opinion, who I respect, calling it AU55. As others have said, 'it pays to buy the book'.

Believe It Or Knot - Undescribed Die Breaks on an 1806 Half Dollar?

Henry R. Hilgard

In January 2002 a bust half dollar collector and good friend of mine purchased this 1806 half dollar (Figure 1) at the FUN show. I saw the coin for the first time when he brought it to Sheridan Downey's table at a coin show in 2006. It was delivered to the table in an envelope labeled 1806 103c; Obv - a die break from star 3 thru star 2, die break on breast; Rev - a 6th berry at top 2 leaves.

Figure 1. Apparent 1806 Half Dollar O103

Sure enough, on the obverse there are 2 undescribed die breaks: a small straight break on Miss Liberty's breast, and a substantial die break from star 3 through star 2 (Figure 2). The reverse also shows 2 features not described in Overton's Early Half Dollar Die Varieties edited by Don Parsley, 4th Edition: an additional berry nestled between the top 2 leaves on the reverse and a blob attached to the highest leaf (Figure 3). Otherwise, this piece appeared to be a decent representation of the 1806 O103 marriage, including reasonably normal edge lettering.

Figure 2. Die Break from star 3 through star 2

Figure 3. Extra berry between top 2 leaves

However, because this piece had features that didn't seem quite right, the yellow caution light started flashing and the words of my mentor Elton Dosier came to mind: Why don't you weigh it? We weighed the coin at the table and found it to be 190 grains, far less than any known genuine half dollar from the era, and 18 grains short of the expected starting weight of 208 grains. We concluded that this coin was a counterfeit, most likely made in a mold whose die faces were cast from a genuine 1806 O103 half dollar.

So what we have here is another Believe It or Knot story in which the Knot wins. However, unlike the die break on Paul Kluth's dime, which was acquired during circulation, the die breaks on this half dollar have been there since the time of manufacture. Too bad the manufacturing process didn't involve genuine dies!

References:

1. Kluth, Paul, View from the Rim, John Reich Journal, Vol. 19 / Issue 2, December 2008, pp. 20-23.

2. Parsley, Donald L., United States Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836, Fourth Edition, 2005, page 88.

The 1831 Capped Bust Quarter; A Year in Transition

Steve M. Thompkins

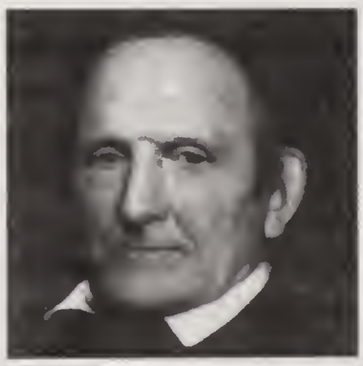
For the United States Bust Quarter series, 1831 is truly a year filled with transitions!

After a 13 year run, the Large Capped Bust Quarter, originally designed by John Reich in 1815, had come to an end, with the last 8,000 examples being delivered by the coiner on 12/19/1828 (warrant # 1184).(1) After an almost two and a half year drought from this ending, quarter production began once again, now incorporating the relatively new "close" collar die (The Mint was located in the first mint building, occupied since 1792, as the new second mint was still in the process of being built). This changeover from the "open" collar to the "close" collar technology had already been introduced in the dime series in 1828 (possibly even as early as 1827)(2), and with the Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle and the Half-Dime series beginning in 1829.(3) (4) The Quarter denomination was the last to see these changes made.

For the quarter series, the introduction of the "close" collar die was not the only change made. Unlike in the dime series, the diameter was substantially reduced from 27 mm on the prior type to 24.3 mm, the same diameter found on the quarters we use today. The thickness was increased, but the weight remained the same as the previous type, 6.74 grams. The Quarter Eagles and Half Eagles were also slightly reduced in diameter during this technological transition, however not as much as in the Bust Quarter series.

When the diameter was reduced, the obverse portrait and reverse eagle were reduced in size as well. Even with these central devices being smaller, the inclusion of the scroll and motto on the reverse, as in the previous type, would make it a bit crowded, or more likely, it was deemed unnecessary and unneeded and therefore was eliminated.

The Players



Dr. Samuel Moore
5th Mint Director
1824 - 1835

Mint Director Dr. Samuel Moore asked for permission to eliminate the scroll and motto, and it was given on January 28th, 1831 (a Friday).(5) Striking of the new style quarters began almost immediately. In my opinion, Director Moore most likely anticipated this approval and had Chief Engraver William Kneass prepare several dies before it was granted, as the first delivery of the newly struck reduced diameter quarters by Chief Coiner Adam Eckfeldt, was for 70,000 coins on 02/04/1831 (one week after permission was given, Warrant # 1281) and another 50,000 were delivered the following week on 02/11/1831 (Warrant #1282).(6) This would have left no time for engraving the dies had Director Moore waited until approval was received. Two more deliveries were also made in February, totaling another 32,000 quarters. The scroll motto was also eliminated on the Quarter Eagles and the Half Eagles in 1834, but that elimination was to distinguish the change in weight, such as when the arrows were added to the dates in 1853 and 1873 for the Liberty Seated series.(7)

William Kneass was given his commission as Chief Engraver on January 29th 1824, replacing Robert Scot who had passed away on November 1st 1823. From the time he began his tenure with the Mint until the end of the Large Capped Bust Quarter type in 1828, Kneass continued to utilize the quarter master dies or hubs first prepared by former Assistant Engraver John Reich in 1815. Only with the transition to the new small diameter Bust Quarters, did Kneass engrave new obverse and reverse master dies for the series.(8)

William Kneass
Chief Engraver
1824 - 1840

The smaller Kneass interpretation of the previous John Reich design, produced a thinner, elegant and much more refined incarnation of Miss Liberty. The Eagle is also more sleek and slender as well. Four obverse and five reverse dies were employed in striking the seven known die marriages found with the 1831 date.

When Kneass prepared the first few working dies, evidently it was not yet decided what style punches would be used for all of the peripheral elements such as the date for the obverse and the legend and denomination on the reverse. Therefore, we see several different combinations of punch sizes and styles during the initial first year of the new reduced diameter Capped Bust Quarters. (*see Table 1 below*)

Table 1 - The 1831 Bust Quarters

Die Marriage	Obv. Die	Rev. Die	Date Numerals	Legend Letters	Denomination		
					2	5	C
B-1	1	A	Small 1's	Small Letters	Small Curl Base	Small Plain 5	Small
B-2	2	B	Small 1's	Small Letters	Small Square Base	Small Plain 5	Medium
B-3	2	C	Small 1's	Small Letters	Medium Square Base	Medium Fancy 5	Medium
B-4	3	C	Small 1's	Small Letters	Medium Square Base	Medium Fancy 5	Medium
B-5	4	D	Large 1's over Small 1's	Large Letters	Large Curl Base	Large Fancy 5	Large
B-6	3	D	Small 1's	Large Letters	Large Curl Base	Large Fancy 5	Large
B-7	4	E	Large 1's over Small 1's	Large Letters	Large Curl Base	Large Fancy 5	Large

Fig. 1
1831 B-1
Small Letters Reverse

Fig. 2
1831 B-5
Large Letters Reverse

The Coins

The first and foremost of these changes are the two different sizes of the letters in the reverse legend. These are known as the "Small Letters" and "Large Letters" respectfully (*see Fig. 1 & 2*). For the "Small Letters", Kneass may have utilized punches from a set that were paid for on 12/31/1830 from longtime supplier Henry Starr, or perhaps they were from punches already in use on the Quarter Eagle series, as the small letter punches used for the reverse legend on the 1829 - 1834 Quarter Eagles seem to be the same ones used for the 1831 Small Letter reverses. The choice to utilize the smaller letters for the legend may have been to leave as much room as possible between the legend and the eagle, just in case the motto scroll elimination was not approved. Whatever the reason, once three reverse dies were produced with the small letters, Kneass changed over to the larger letters. These larger letter punches were perhaps included as part of the delivery of punches from Henry Starr that were paid for on 4/6/1831.(9)

It might be logical to assume that the very first reverse die produced by Kneass was **Reverse A,** employed in producing the **B-1** die marriage, based on it being the only one with an addition of berries (*see Fig. 1 & 3*). However, there is no evidence that it was struck before **B-2** or any other marriage, as neither the obverse or reverse die was used in striking any other die marriage.

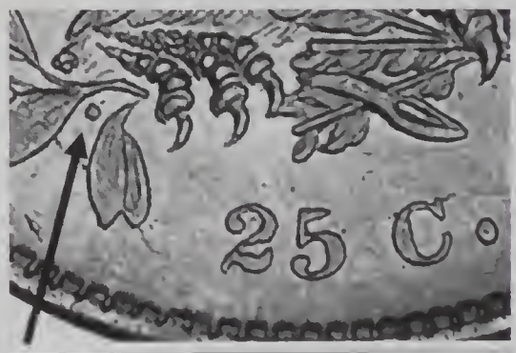


Fig. 3
Small Curl Base 2
Small Plain 5
Small C

The **B-1** die marriage has small numerals in the date and the denomination and small letters in the legend. The punches used in the denomination consisted of a small curl based 2, a small, plain, stubby, flat top 5 and a small C. (*see Fig. 1 & 3*)

Fig. 4
Small Square Base 2
Small Flat Top 5
Medium C

Unique to this reverse die (in figure 3) was the addition of berries next to the olive leaves. Along with the addition of an Eagle's tongue, neither of these items were on the master die, but were hand engraved onto the working die. After their use on this one die, the berries were not added to any of the reverse dies produced through the rest of the Bust Quarter series. Also, the small curl based 2 was not used again on any other reverse die seen through 1838.

Next, on **Reverse B**, only used in creating the **B-2** die marriage, we again find small letters in the legend, but a small 2 with a square base was used, along with the small 5 and small C in the denomination (*see Fig. 4*). The square base 2 punch seems to be the exact same size and shaped 2 that was used on the Quarter Eagle series up until 1829 (*see Fig. 5*; note: this picture is slightly enlarged). The date for **B-2** consisted of small numerals.

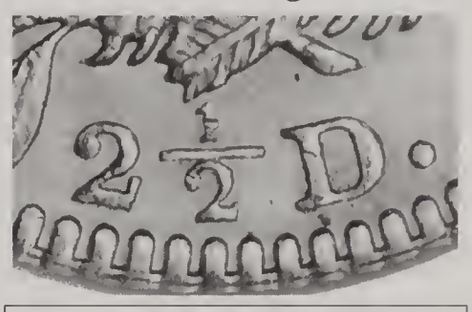


Fig. 5
1821 - 1829 Quarter Eagle
Small Square Base 2

Still in conjunction with the small letters in the legend, a slightly different shaped, but still smaller, square base 2 was utilized on **Reverse C** in striking the **B-3** & **B-4** die marriages. The 5 was also a slightly different shape as well (*see Fig. 6*). All of the obverse dies used to create the first four die marriages for 1831, had small numerals in the date.

Fig. 6
Small Square Base 2
Small Fancy 5
Medium C

New larger letters in the reverse legend along with a larger curl base 2, larger fancy 5 and a larger C were employed on **Reverse D** for the **B-5** die marriage, and punches of this size were used throughout the rest of the series (*see Fig. 2 & 7*). Also for the obverse used on the **B-5** & **B-7** die marriages, we see larger 1's punched over previously punched small 1's. This was the only obverse die to show this feature (*see Fig. 8*). The new larger numerals may have been part of the delivery of punches from Henry Starr, paid for on 4/6/1831, along with the set of larger letters found on the last three marriages of the 1831 Bust Quarter.(9)

The **B-6** die marriage is a combination of the earlier elements and those of the final design, as it shows small 1's in the date, reusing the obverse die found on the **B-4** die marriage, combined with the reverse die first used in creating the **B-5** (*see fig. 2*), which show the large letters, large curl based 2, large fancy 5 and large C in the denomination.

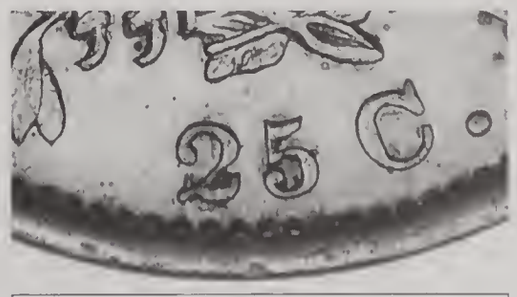


Fig. 7
Large Curl Base 2
Large Fancy 5
Large C

The **B-7** die marriage consists of the reuse of the **B-5** obverse showing large 1's punched over small 1's and a large letters reverse. The main difference in this reverse from the one used for the **B-5** & **B-6**, are small stubby arrowheads, as compared to large pointed ones (*see Fig. 9 & 10*). These differences show us that the arrowheads were not part of the master die and it was left up to the engraver to decide what style and shape to create on each working die, as they are different on each die produced.

Fig. 8
Large 1's
over
Small 1's

Along with the different punch types and sizes, Kneass continually re-engraved different areas of both the obverse and reverse working dies. Every eagle's wing tips, feathers, claws, etc., were subject to this re-working on the reverse, as were the liberty cap, ribbons, drapery and curls on the obverse. This was not unique to 1831, but is also seen in other years as well. Kneass was applying the same changes and techniques that he was trying on other denominations, such as those found in the half dollar series, to produce a better, more even, and pleasing strike.(10)

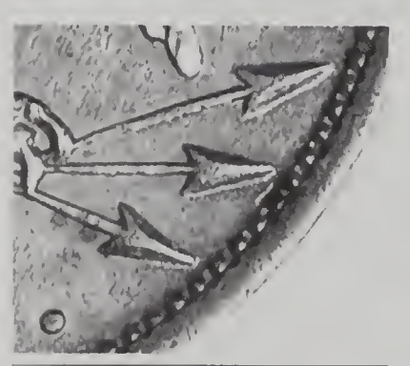


Fig. 9
Large
Arrowheads

As stated before, the eagle's tongue was added to some working dies, but was omitted on others for reasons that shall remain a mystery to all but the engraver. The only thing we can say for certain is that the tongue was not part of the master die along with the arrowheads and it was at the discretion of the engraver to engrave one or not. Both of these items fluctuate from die to die throughout the series not just in 1831.

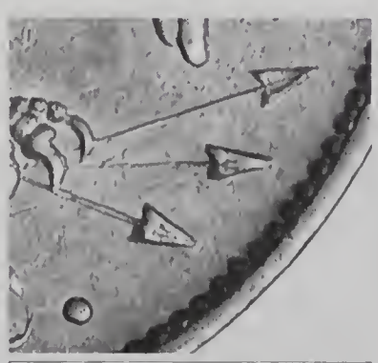


Fig. 10
Small
Arrowheads

The New Technology

The new "close" collar die that contained the planchet and imparted the reeded edge of the coins, shows a finer reeding than in the earlier series. It may be possible to determine a probable striking order by counting these reeds and following any changes found, including measurement of the diameters to reveal expansion of the collar die.

Table 2

Collar Reed Count	Die Marriage Use
134	B-1, B-2, B-3
Both	B-4
150	B-5, B-6, B-7

There are two different collar dies used in 1831, one with a count of 134 reeds and another with 150 reeds. The collar with 134 reeds was used for the first 4 die marriages (*see Table 2*) and during the striking of the **B-4** die marriage, the collar die was changed to one with a larger reed count of 150 reeds. This transition occurred in the

later die stages of the **B-4** dies and clearly separates the striking order of the seven die marriages found in 1831. Once the 150 reed collar die was installed, it was only used until the end of 1831, as we see a new collar die with a count of 149 reeds starting in 1832. A collar die with 150 reeds was brought back late in 1835 however, and was used through 1837. (11)

Conclusions

The 1831 year shows more distinct changes of styles and types of punches used than in any other year in the entire Bust Quarter series, particularly on the reverse dies. The transition from the larger diameter to the smaller diameter type most likely precipitated these changes, along with the economical reuse of previously used punches, even those found on other denominations. The lack of a spelled out set of rules as to dimension, style and shape of the elements such as letter and numeral punches that were to used for each denomination, left an opportunity for the people involved to use any of those available at their discretion. For these reasons we see a very diverse and telling picture of the many things that were happening at this time. It is only through these observations that we can gain a small glimpse into this time period and the innermost workings of our early mint.

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END NOTES

(1) National Archives, Bullion Journal D, pg. 233.

(2) *A Closer look at 1827 JR10*, Mike Sherrill, JRJ 13/2, July 2001 pg. 17.

(3) *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties*, John Dannreuther, 2007 pg. 107.

(4) *Federal Half Dimes 1792 - 1837*, Russ Logan, John McCloskey, 2001 pg. 57.

(5) National Archives, Correspondence Journal Vol. 2. (References by both Don Taxay in *U. S. Mint and Coinage* and Walter Breen in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* about this event are in error, as both cite that Moore was in contact with Secretary of the Treasury, Levi Woodbury about the transition to the small diameter quarter in 1831. Taxay states, without any source cited, that Moore sent an example of the new coin to Woodbury for approval on 1/29/1831. However, Woodbury was not secretary until 1834! Breen also states that Moore went to Washington to justify the removal of the motto due to the Treasury departments action in trying to restore it. There is no source stated for this comment and I was unable to substantiate what Breen stated.)

(6) National Archives, Bullion Journal D, pg. 421 & 422.

(7) *The Official Red Book A Guide Book of United States Coins*, R.S. Yeoman, 61st Edition 2008 pg. 161 & 163.

(8) *Early United States Quarters*, Steve M. Tompkins, 2008 pg. 139.

(9) National Archives, Blotter of Ordinary Accounts 1817 - 1835, pg. 131 & 132.

(10) *Bust Half Fever*, 2nd edition, Edgar Souders, 2006 pg. 300.

(11) *Early United States Quarters*, Steve M. Tompkins, 2008 pg. 393.

The John Reich Collectors Society Hall of Fame

The JRCS Hall of Fame is being established to recognize numismatists who have made significant contributions to expanding the literature on Bust coinage, who have built an important collection of Bust coinage or who have served in a leadership position while contributing to the long-term success of the JRCS. A committee of five members appointed by the club officers will select individuals for this honor. Committee selections will be announced during the JRCS meeting at the ANA Summer Convention. Individuals selected for this honor will receive a certificate recognizing their admission to the JRCS Hall of Fame and a citation describing their contributions will be published in the John Reich Journal.

ARTICLE I - The Selection Committee

Section 1. A Selection Committee of five club members will be appointed by the president each year and announced during the club meeting at the ANA Summer Convention.

Section 2. Committee members will be appointed for a term of one year. There is no limit to the number of terms that an individual may serve on the committee.

Section 3. The Committee Chair may be retained for additional years but may not serve two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE II – Duties of the Selection Committee

Section 1. The Selection Committee will choose one of its own members as Committee Chair and he/she will represent the committee during its term in office. The Committee Chair will be selected by September 1st of each year.

Section 2. Nominations for admission to the Hall of Fame will be solicited in a fall notice sent to all club members by the Committee Chair and/or published in the John Reich Journal. Nominations will be made directly to the Committee Chair until December 31st of each year. Each nominator may nominate two nominees per year, one from the Veteran's group and one from the Modern group (as defined in Article IV, Sections 2 and 3 below). A brief statement by the nominator outlining the qualifications of the nominee should be provided.

Section 3. Committee Members will receive a copy of each nomination and supporting materials, will review all nominations and will assess eligibility. Each committee member will vote either yes or no on the eligibility of the nominee. If three or more committee members vote yes on a nominee, then that individual would be listed on the final ballot. For the final ballot, each committee member makes two selections (one in the Veteran category and one in the Modern category) from among the nominees, or can pass and select no one at all. If one nominee in each category receives three or more votes then that nominee is selected as the winner for that category. If no nominee receives three votes, a second final ballot listing only those nominees who received at least one

vote is taken. The process continues until one nominee receives three votes or more in each category. If the committee is deadlocked after five votes the Committee Chair will notify the President that a consensus can not be reached and that no award (either Veteran or Modern or both) will be made that year.

Section 4. The Committee Chair will notify the President of the selections each year by June 1st to allow time to prepare the award certificates for presentation during the club meeting at the ANA Summer Convention.

Section 5. The Committee Chair will select club members to prepare the citations for publication in the JR Journal.

Section 6. The Committee Chair will prepare an announcement describing the accomplishments of the individuals admitted to the JRCS Hall of Fame and submit it to the numismatic media.

ARTICLE III – Duties of Club Officers

Section 1. The club Secretary-Treasurer will maintain a permanent listing of the individuals admitted to the Hall of Fame that includes their name and the date of admission that will be published each year in the JR Journal upon announcement of the current inductees.

Section 2. The club President will have the Hall of Fame certificates prepared for the individuals selected for admission to the Hall of Fame.

ARTICLE IV – Eligibility Requirements for Selection to the Hall of Fame

Section 1. Membership in the JRCS is not a requirement for selection.

Section 2. Veteran Contributors. Veteran contributors are defined as those individuals with past work/collections/contributions, as outlined in ARTICLE V, that predate the JRCS (pre-1986).

Section 3. Modern members are those who are/were JRCS members or nonmember numismatists who have made significant contributions, as outlined in ARTICLE V, since the founding of the JRCS in 1986.

ARTICLE V – List of contributions worthy of nomination to the JRCS Hall of Fame.

Any of the contributions listed below will entitle the individual to be considered for admission to the Hall of Fame.

Section 1. A nominee can be recognized for significant advances in numismatic research on Bust coinage. The significance of this research as reflected by member voting for the JR Award will be an important consideration.

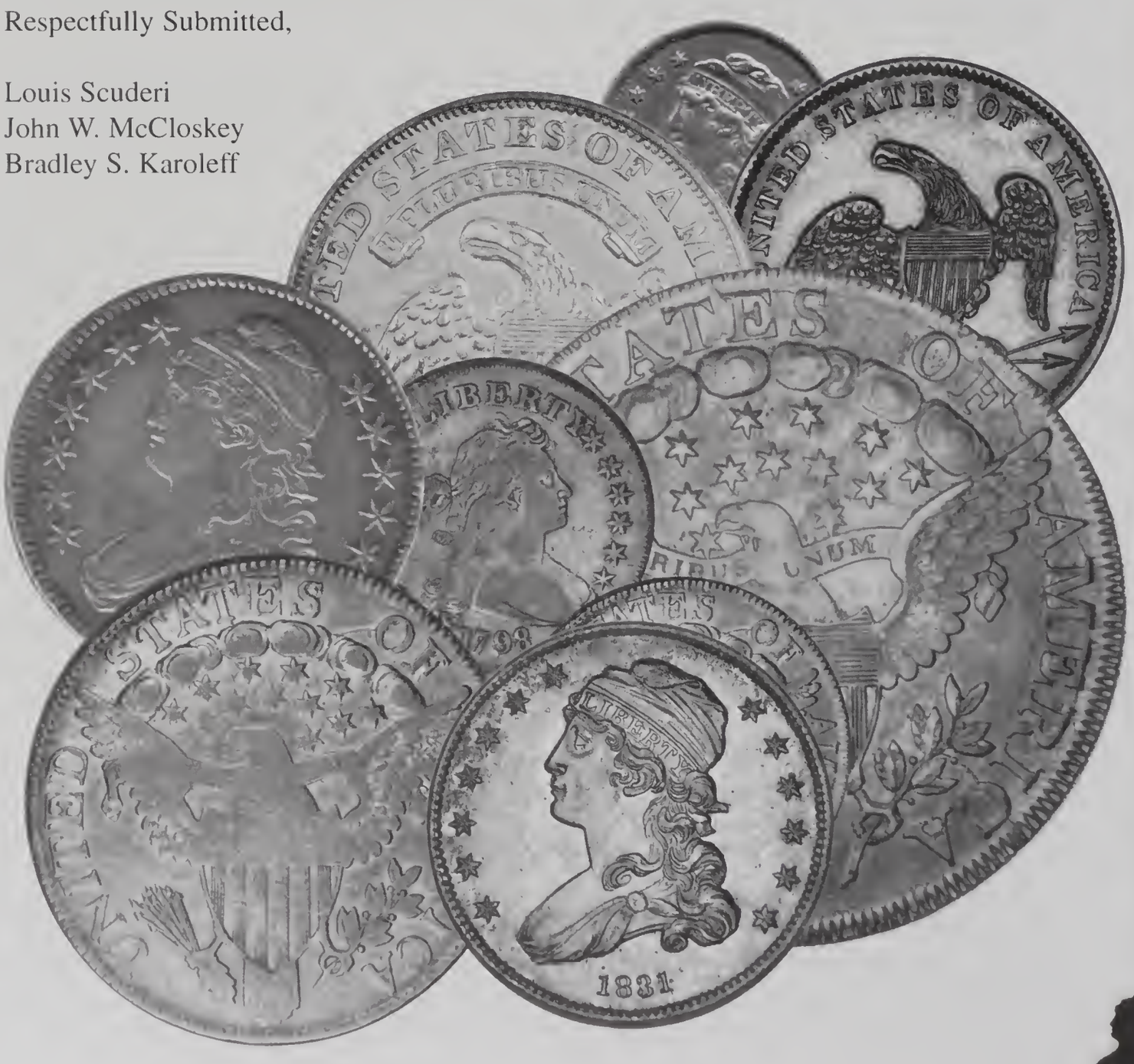
Section 2. A nominee can be recognized for significant contributions, past or present, to the numismatic literature on Bust coinage. The number of contributions made by the nominee as well as their significance will be considered.

Section 3. A nominee can be recognized for their work in building a significant collection of coins in at least one of the Bust series. Documentation of the quality of quality of this collection through an auction catalogue, the listing of the collection as a Registry Set or a description of the collection in a numismatic publication, including the JRCS census, will be an important consideration.

Section 4. A nominee can be recognized for significant service contributions as a JRCS officer or representative carrying out the JRCS mission. A nominee should have served at least five years in a leadership position with JRCS and made contributions that significantly improved JRCS services to members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis Scuderi
John W. McCloskey
Bradley S. Karoleff



The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership or direct them to our new website, www.jrcs.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

JRCS
JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

Office Use Only

JRCS#_____

Type or Print

Name _____ _____ _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address _____

_____ Date of Birth _____
(Month Date Year)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____)_____

The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

____ Collector ___ Collector-Dealer ___ Dealer (Firm Name) _____

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

a __ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes
b __ Draped Bust Half Dimes
c __ Capped Bust Half Dimes
d __ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes
e __ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes
f __ Capped Bust Dimes
g __ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars
h __ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars
i __ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars
j __ Draped Bust Half Dollars
k __ Capped Bust Half Dollars
l __ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars
m __ Draped Bust Dollars
n __ Gold Issues

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for $25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or $625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated:_____ _____
(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # _____

Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):
I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

_____
(Signature of Guarantor)
Relation to Applicant _____

Sponsor's Statement:
I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.
My JRCS member number is #_____

_____
(Signature of Sponsor Member)

John Reich Collectors Society (Employer Identification No. 34-1427467) is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, gifts and contributions made to John Reich Collectors Society may be deducted as provided in the Internal Revenue Code.

Back issues of The John Reich Journal are still available to members for $9.00 each postpaid.
Visit www.jrcs.org for a complete listing of the issues in stock.

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